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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

Patent Application of

David A. Poindexter, et al.

Serial No. 10/001620

Filed: October 23, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

"DUMPING AND TRANSPORTING
ACCESSORY HAVING A TELESCOPING
LIFT WITH A PIVOT MOUNTED TROLLEY"

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I, Victoria K. Hanson, hereby certify that this correspondence
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Victoria K. Hanson
Signature

December 20, 2001
Date of Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Kindly amend the present application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 as instructed below and cancel claim 5. Claims
10-28 have been added. A copy of the marked up claims is attached hereto.

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1. (Amended) A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:

a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

a second frame having two extension members, each extension member slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member having at least one guide device and being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having at least one arm, the at least one arm having at least one guide device, the carriage movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position; and

a transport support having at least one track, the at least one track slidably borne by the at least one guide device of the carriage, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position and positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one guide device of each extension member when the transport support is in the retracted position.

4. (Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

5. (Canceled)

7. (Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

11. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base frame includes at least one tube member, the at least one tube member being telescopically borne by the base frame, such that the at least one tube member telescopes from the base frame to adjust a width of the base frame.

12. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position and to move the transport support between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.

13. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 12, wherein the drive assembly includes a winch, the winch including a drum that is operable to rotate in both clockwise and counter clockwise directions to wind a cable thereon, the cable having a first end mounted to the drum and a second end mounted to the transport support.

14. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transport support includes at least one roller pivotally mounted to the transport support, the at least one roller positioned such that it contacts a ground surface when the transport support is in the extended position.

15. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second frame is swivelly mounted to the base frame.

22. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the drive assembly includes a motor operable to rotate a drive shaft in both clockwise and counter clockwise directions, the drive shaft being axially interconnected to at least one drive gear that rotates clockwise and counter clockwise with the drive shaft, at least one drive chain being interconnected to the at least one drive gear, the at least one drive chain rotates clockwise and counter clockwise with the at least one drive gear.

23. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 22, wherein the second frame is interconnected to the at least one drive chain.

24. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the base frame includes at least one side beam, the side beam having at least one aperture therein for mounting the base frame to the vehicle by inserting fasteners into the at least one aperture.

25. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the carriage is movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position.

26. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the transport support is positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one roller of each side arm when the transport support is in the retracted position.

27. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the drive assembly includes a winch, the winch includes a drum that is operable to rotate in both clockwise and counterclockwise directions to wind a cable thereon, the cable having a first end mounted to the drum and a second end mounted to the transport support.

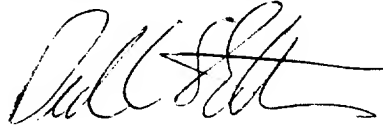
28 (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the transport support includes at least one roller pivotally mounted to the transport support, the at least one roller positioned such that it contacts a ground surface when the transport support is in the extended position.

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this preliminary amendment. This amendment is made to amend claims 1, 4, 7, and 9, cancel claim 5, and add additional claims 10-28 to the application. No new matter is added by way of the present amendment.

The Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner telephone the attorneys of record in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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SCANNED # 14

MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:

a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

a second frame having two extension members, each extension member slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member having at least one guide device and being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having at least one arm, the at least one arm having at least one guide device, the carriage movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position; and

a transport support having at least one track, the at least one track slidably borne by the at least one guide device of the carriage, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position and positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one guide device of each [extention] extension member when the transport [device] support is in the retracted position.

4. (Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

5. (Canceled)

7. (Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

9. (Amended) A method of loading and unloading cargo into and from a transporting accessory for a vehicle, the method comprising:

mounting a base frame of the transporting accessory to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

positioning the cargo into a transport support of the transporting accessory[.];

activating a drive assembly a first time to move two extension members of a second frame of the transporting accessory along a telescoping path of travel with respect to the base frame between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

activating an actuating mechanism a first time to pivot a carriage and to move a transport support along a transport support path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position, the actuating mechanism being coupled to the second frame and [a] the carriage, the carriage being pivotally mounted to the second frame;

activating the actuating mechanism a second time to pivot the carriage to cause the transport support to move along the transport support path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position; and

activating the drive assembly a second time to move the two extension members along the telescoping path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position.

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